

FAFS Dean's Office Updates

Issue no.14 | July 2019

FAFS Dean's Office Updates is the monthly newsletter that keeps FAFS faculty, students, staff, and friends informed of the latest activities, initiatives, and achievements of the FAFS family. Please share your department's news and your suggestions with fafs.deanupdates@aub.edu.lb

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In the spotlight

Research day at AREC

FAFS faculty, staff and students from Department of Agriculture, the WEFRAH research group, the UNIFERT global community, and other guests showcased their final projects in an exceptional FAFS research and UNIFERT open field day (July 31) during which they learned about the projects and ongoing research at AREC, and attended UNIFERT's field day on the trials of their wide variety of vegetables at UNIFERT's site. [READ MORE](#)



Research cooperation with FAO

FAFS and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) embarked on a joint research venture to conduct a pilot study on evapotranspiration and trade-offs in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus in the Beqaa Valley, Lebanon. [READ MORE](#)



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Research & Outreach

ASABE Annual International Meeting 2019: FAFS participation

Dean Mohtar, representing FAFS, took an active role in the opening session of the Annual International Meeting, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), in Boston, USA (July 7-10). The Dean was an invited panelist at the opening plenary session on sustainability and discussed the three pillars of achieving sustainability: technology, behavior, and policy. Mohtar also co-organized and moderated the special session: *Implementing Water, Energy, and Food Sustainable Development Goals*.

At a separate session, Dr. Roula Bachour, Project Manager of the FAFS-AUB led project *Transforming Higher Education*, presented the project's educational model, including its five pillars and ways to incorporate them in academic curricula.

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Food Tank recognizes Food Heritage Foundation initiative: redefining food and agriculture

FAFS-ESDU's Food Heritage Foundation (FHF) was one of 16 initiatives recognized by the [Food Tank \(16 Initiatives Redefining Food and Agriculture Across the Middle East\)](#). FHF works to address the challenges of urbanization, food and nutrition insecurity, natural resource scarcity, and climate change. FHF seeks solutions that are environmentally and economically sustainable, and socially just.



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Crop management skills and seed production training at AREC

The International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) organized a training course on crop management skills and seed production in Lebanon at AREC (June 24 - July 2). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Japanese Embassy funded the course. [READ MORE](#)



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Dr. Issmat Kassem reinstates LAFS (Lebanese Association for Food Safety) in the IAFP

Dr. Issmat Kassem reinstated LAFS, the Lebanese Association for Food Safety, as an official affiliate in the International Association of Food Protection (IAFP), the world's largest, most prominent international organization for food protection. [READ MORE](#)



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Events

ESDU hosts national "Favorite Village of the Lebanese" competition

Building on the success of its earlier editions, the competition "Favorite Village of the Lebanese" officially launched with great pomp on the evening of July 10, during a ceremony at ESDU, FAFS. The festive event celebrated ten Lebanese villages in a traditional, rural ambience. [READ MORE](#)



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AUBees 2019 raise awareness of Colony Collapse Disorder

The Department of Agriculture's Apiculture class (AGSC 219) hosted Honey Day (July 26) at The Village, Dbayeh. During the event, students sold honey produced by campus raised bees and some honey-based foods. Proceeds of the event will be used to support the beehive at the FAFS Honeybee Lab. [READ MORE](#)



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Alumni and Students News

A playful structure by LDEM students revives AREC's pine area

Each summer, second year LDEM students develop a playful structure at AREC, Bekaa, as part of the *Site Engineering III - Design Implementation* course (LDEM 249). Under the supervision of LDEM 249 professors Beata Dreksler and Wissam Melhem, a permanent installation is constructed with the goal of reviving the pine area near the student dorms at AREC. The installation provides an exciting experience to visitors of all ages. [READ MORE](#)



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Hydration for Health: Young Research Award

Carla El-Mallah, Ph.D. candidate and member of Dr. Omar Obeid's team, is the 'young researcher' of the Hydration for Health (H4H) Scientific Conference on water and hydration (Evian, France, June 25-26). She was named for the award by the H4H scientific committee for one of the top six projects in the area. [READ MORE](#)



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LDEM towards ideas for sustainable tourism in Jordan

LDEM students travelled with Dr. Nayla Al-Akl to Ajloun, Jordan (June 21-29), to participate in an intensive program to develop projects for sustainable tourism in Jordan. The interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange considered ways to sustainably safeguard unique cultural and natural landscapes. [READ MORE](#)



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EAB News

FAFS welcomes three new members into its External Advisory Board

In its meeting of July 25, 2019, the FAFS External Advisory Board (EAB) welcomed three new members: Mr. Pierre Issa, Secretary General of the Lebanese National Bloc party and co-founder and former General Manager of Arcenciel; Mr. Ramy Boujawdeh (FAFS '00), Deputy General Manager of Berytech and Program Director of Agrytech; and Mr. Salah Saliba (FAFS '99, MSc '02), private sector engagement team lead, Lebanon Water Project (LWP), USAID contractor. The new members bring additional private sector expertise that will add to FAFS' network and resources. During its meeting, the EAB discussed several plans for maintaining and further strengthening FAFS' leadership in Lebanon and the region, despite the major challenges currently facing its agriculture sector.

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Announcements

SAVE THE DATE

9th International Breast Cancer and Nutrition (IBCN) symposium

Date: November 14-15, 2019

Location: American University of Beirut

The International Breast Cancer and Nutrition (IBCN) project was conceived at Purdue University, Indiana. Housed in Discovery Park, Oncological Sciences Center, it aims to serve as a model for breast cancer prevention by adopting a multidisciplinary approach that brings together experts in breast cancer, nutrition, cell & molecular biology, health policy, anthropologists, and others, who will set strategies to examine nutrient induced genome changes and breast cancer onset. An international executive committee and advisory board from seven member countries overlook the different activities of IBCN, amongst which is the IBCN annual symposium. [READ MORE](#)

Register [here](#) and submit your abstracts [here](#).

Event Poster

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SAVE THE DATE

FAFS Faculty Retreat | AREC Night | Harvest Day

Date: October 12-13, 2019

Location: AREC

FAFS will be holding its second strategic planning retreat to complete and fine-tune a detailed FAFS 2025 implementation plan with a timeline embedding departmental / program initiatives and actions. Faculty and staff will then enjoy various activities during AREC Night, which will happen on the same day, followed by the Harvest Day on October 13.

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STAY TUNED

Welcoming New FAFS Students

Date: August 26, 2019

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Michel and Sherine Bayoud Lecture Hall, FAFS

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STAY TUNED

New Faculty Orientation

Date: August 26, 2019

Time: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: South of Lebanon

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Lectures series and Seminars

July 24 – **Finding the sweet spot for climate action and engagement | FAFS** – Mark S. McCaffrey, Senior Fellow, Centre for Sustainable Development Studies, National University for Public Service, Hungary. [READ MORE](#)

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To learn more about FAFS events, please visit our website [Calendar](#)

To advertise your upcoming events, please send the event details (*title, location, date, brief description, picture, and contact name & email*) to fafs_com@aub.edu.lb

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